DARK HORSE COMICS

#3

THE ORVILLE™

HEROES
PART 1 OF 2

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HEROES PART 1 OF 2

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FOURTH PLANET CIRCLING THE SUN DESIGNATED HR 5070.

FIVE YEARS AGO.

"THE GENERAL STOOD OVER THE LITTLE GIRL...

"...AND SAID, 'NOW, YOU WILL GET WHAT YOU DESERVE.' AS THE GENERAL BROUGHT HIS SWORD UP, A VOICE CAME FROM ABOVE, AND SAID, 'WHAT SHE DESERVES IS AN APOLOGY.' THE GENERAL AND THE LITTLE GIRL LOOKED UP, AND STANDING ON TOP OF THE BUILDING...

"...STOOD XANDIA, HERO OF THE OKUDUM..."

IT'S SUCH AN EXCITING STORY. I WISH I COULD STAY TO HEAR THE END OF IT.

YOU HAVE TO GO?

I'M SORRY.

MOTHER, GET HER TO STAY! SHE'S GOT TO HEAR HOW XANDIA WAS A FARM GIRL LIKE ME, WHO STOOD UP TO FREE OUR PEOPLE.

AKI, TALLA ALREADY KNOWS.

EVERY OKUDUM KNOWS THE STORY OF XANDIA.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY FOR A LONELY TRAVELER.

PLEASE COME BACK AGAIN SOON.

YES, PLEASE...

I'LL TRY.

"WE WERE LUCKY TO HAVE YOU ABOARD, ENSIGN..."

SCV-618 WILSON

...DID YOU DISCOVER WHY THEY'RE PHYSICALLY SO SIMILAR TO XELAYANS?

NO, SIR. THERE ARE NO APPARENT SIMILARITIES TO XELAYA CULTURALLY...

...AND NO TRACE OF THE INCREASED STRENGTH THAT WOULD COME FROM BEING BORN ON OUR HOME WORLD. THERE HAVE BEEN THEORIES THAT SUGGEST XELAYA WAS VISITED IN ITS PREHISTORY, AND THAT OUR RACE WAS SEEDED ON OTHER WORLDS.

THAT PROBABLY ANSWERS THE NEXT QUESTION ABOUT THE DYSONIUM DEPOSIT.

THE OKUDUM HAVE A VERY PEACEFUL, IDYLLIC SOCIETY. MINING DYSONIUM WOULD BE VERY DISRUPTIVE.

YOU SEEM QUITE TAKEN WITH THE PLACE.

WELL, I WOULD JUST HATE TO SEE SOMETHING SO BEAUTIFUL DESTROYED.

WELL, ENSIGN, GOOD WORK. AND YOU'RE NOW THE ONLY LIVING EXPERT ON THE OKUDUM.

THAT'S RIGHT. ANY SHIP THAT COMES BACK HERE IS GOING TO NEED YOU TO TELL THEM WHAT'S WHAT.

SO TALLA, GIVEN WHAT YOU'VE TOLD US, WHAT DO YOU THINK IS GOING ON HERE?

FIVE YEARS LATER.

I HAVE NO IDEA, SIR. THE NATIVES HAD NO ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY. IT'S INCONCEIVABLE THAT IN FIVE YEARS THEY'D BE ABLE TO DEVELOP...

"...A QUANTUM REACTOR."

ISAAC, WHAT HAVE YOU GOT?

IT WOULD APPEAR TO BE A SPACESHIP OF SOME KIND. BUT IT IS NOT A CONFIGURATION I AM FAMILIAR WITH.

WELL, WE SHOULD INVESTIGATE.

I'LL POINT OUT, CAPTAIN, THAT WHEN CAPTAIN MOSLEY SENT ME DOWN, I WENT ALONE BECAUSE OF MY PHYSICAL SIMILARITY TO THE NATIVES.

YOU WERE PREVENTING EXPOSURE TO ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY. THEY'VE GOT A QUANTUM REACTOR DOWN THERE NOW.

STILL, WE CAN COVER OUR HEADS. KELLY, YOU HAVE THE BRIDGE. HAVE DR. FINN AND LAMARR MEET US IN MAIN SHUTTLEBAY.

AYE, SIR...

WE'LL TAKE A LOW-LEVEL FLYBY FIRST, SEE WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH.

AYE, SIR. ACTIVATING CLOAK.

HOW LONG WERE YOU ON THE PLANET, TALLA?

A FEW DAYS. IT WAS LOVELY. THEY LIVE OFF THE LAND, TREAT EACH OTHER WITH RESPECT. IT SHOWED ME THAT YOU DON'T NEED TECHNOLOGY TO CREATE A PARADISE.

MAYBE. BUT ONE THING YOU CAN BE SURE OF...

...TECHNOLOGY CAN DO A GOOD JOB OF SCREWING ONE UP.

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?

SOME KIND OF MINING OPERATION.

CLAIRE, CHECK THE DATABASE, SEE WHAT WE HAVE ON THAT SPECIES.

DATABASE SAYS THEY'RE THE NAZH. NOT MEMBERS OF THE UNION.

NAZH

WE NEED MORE INFORMATION. JOHN AND I WILL GET CLOSER TO THAT SHIP. TALLA, TAKE DR. FINN AND SEE IF YOU CAN FIND THOSE PEOPLE YOU STAYED WITH.

AYE, SIR.

HEY, HOW ABOUT A SIP OF THAT...

YOU CAN GET IT FROM THE WELL YOURSELF.

WE DON'T WANT IT FROM THE WELL.

IT TASTES BETTER FROM YOUR BUCKET.

SO, ARE YOU GOING TO GIVE ME A TASTE?

YOU HEARD HER...

THERE'S PLENTY OF WATER IN THE WELL. YOU NEED ME TO SHOW YOU?

NO.

TALLA, I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S YOU!

I BARELY RECOGNIZED YOU, AKI, YOU'RE SO GROWN UP.

I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE.

THIS IS MY FRIEND, CLAIRE. CAN WE TALK TO YOU AND YOUR PARENTS?

YES, COME, WE SHOULDN'T BE OUTSIDE TOO LONG...

THIS IS PROBABLY AS CLOSE AS WE SHOULD GET.

THAT'S DEFINITELY DYSONIUM IN THAT WHEELBARROW.

THEY DON'T GOT A TON OF MACHINERY FOR DIGGING IT OUT.

SLAVE LABOR SAVES ON THE WEAR AND TEAR OF YOUR EQUIPMENT.

ESPECIALLY WHEN THE LABOR'S DISPOSABLE. WORKING DYSONIUM ORE WITH YOUR HANDS IS GOING TO MAKE YOU REAL SICK, REAL FAST.

THEY CAME ABOUT A YEAR AGO, AND SAID WE HAD TO WORK IN THEIR MINE.

OUR LEADERS STOOD UP TO THEM AND WERE KILLED.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN SICK?

I'M NOT SICK, I JUST NEED SOME REST.

THEY HAVE SAID THEY WILL LEAVE WHEN THEY HAVE FINISHED MINING THE ORE.

WHAT?

WELL, IT'S JUST THAT COULD TAKE A LONG TIME. WE THINK THERE'S A LOT OF IT.

"WE"?

IT'S A LONG STORY.

YOU SHOULD LEAVE. IF ILIS FINDS YOU, HE'LL PUT YOU TO WORK TOO.

ILIS?

THE FOREMAN. HE IS A BUTCHER.

YOU UP THERE!

UH-OH.

TIME TO GO...

YUP.

GET AFTER THEM!

HALT!

THEY'RE FAST! WE MAY NOT OUTRUN THEM...

I'M ON IT. RIGHT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT BIG ROCK.

WE'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS WE CAN.

HERE, I WANTED TO GIVE YOU SOMETHING.

YOU SURE YOU WANT TO GIVE IT TO ME?

IT'S FOR KIDS. I DON'T NEED IT ANYMORE.

WE SHOULD GO.

I'M NOT INTERESTED IN YOUR EXCUSES.

FOREMAN, PLEASE, JUST LOOK...

THE FOOTPRINTS END.

HMMM.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

IT MEANS WE MAY HAVE MEDDLERS.

"ED, I UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION..."

...BUT THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO. THE NAZH AREN'T IN THE UNION, AND THEY ARE NOTORIOUSLY UNINTERESTED IN WHAT WE THINK.

BUT SIR, THEY'VE ALL BUT ENSLAVED THE OKUDUM.

YES, BUT IF YOU INTERFERE WITH THEIR OPERATION, THEY COULD VERY EASILY SEE IT AS AN ACT OF WAR.

...AND THE UNION DOESN'T NEED ANY MORE ENEMIES RIGHT NOW.

EXACTLY.

WE CAN'T JUST ABANDON THESE PEOPLE!

ADMIRAL, I'D LIKE YOUR PERMISSION TO GO TO THE NAZH HOMEWORLD, AND SEE IF WE CAN OPEN TALKS.

REQUEST DENIED.

YOU NEED TO GET TO THE OUTPOST ON ROCHELLE BEFORE SANDSTORM SEASON BEGINS. I'LL PURSUE THE DIPLOMATIC ROUTE FROM HERE. PERRY OUT.

WELL, I GUESS THAT'S THAT.

WE'RE NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING?

WE HAVE OUR ORDERS.

WE'VE VIOLATED ORDERS BEFORE, CAPTAIN--

TALLA, THAT'S ENOUGH.

SIR, MAYBE IF WE CONFRONTED THE NAZH.

YEAH, THESE GUYS MAY NOT EVEN HAVE THEIR GOVERNMENT'S PERMISSION TO BE HERE.

WE CONVINCE THEM TO LEAVE AND THEN WHAT? THEY JUST COME BACK WHEN WE'RE GONE.

WE CAN'T JUST GIVE UP!

SOMETIMES THERE'S NO SOLUTION. WE CAN'T ALWAYS BE THE HEROES!

BULLSHIT!

CRAAACK

WE'RE GONNA NEED A NEW TABLE.

TALLA?

WE WANTED TO MAKE SURE YOU WERE ALL RIGHT.

THANKS, I APPRECIATE IT.

WHAT'S THAT?

IT'S A BOOK MY FRIEND AKI GAVE ME. XANDIA IS A FOLK HERO OF THE OKUDUM. SHE HELPED FREE THEM FROM A MILITARY DICTATORSHIP.

IT'S TOO BAD SHE'S NOT REAL.

THEY COULD USE HER RIGHT NOW.

BEEP

COME IN.

LIEUTENANT.

CAPTAIN... I WANTED TO APOLOGIZE FOR MY BEHAVIOR. IT WAS UNCALLED FOR.

FORGET IT. WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE. I REALLY WISH THERE WAS MORE WE COULD DO, TOO.

WITH YOUR PERMISSION, I WAS GOING TO TAKE A FEW DAYS' LEAVE. I COULD USE A LITTLE TIME OFF.

THAT'S A GREAT IDEA.

THANKS. ALSO... DR. FINN AND COMMANDER LAMARR ARE COMING WITH ME.

I SEE. I FEEL LIKE I WANT TO ASK QUESTIONS... BUT ALSO DON'T WANT TO ASK QUESTIONS.

PROBABLY WISE, SIR.

HAVE A GOOD TRIP.

GET UP!

HE'S LATE FOR HIS SHIFT.

HE NEEDS REST!

HE CAN REST WHEN HE'S DEAD.

YOU'LL KILL HIM!

DON'T TOUCH ME!

AHHH!

YOU DESERVE MORE THAN THAT!

I AGREE. SHE AT LEAST DESERVES AN APOLOGY.

XANDIA...?

IN THE FLESH.